

SECRET

22 July 1954

MEMO FOR DOCHEV FILE

FROM: CSE-2

SUBJECT: Summary of meeting with Dochev, and suggested plans for his use.

1. My impression of Dr. Ivan DOCHEV was generally favorable. He seemed to me to be a generally honest, straightforward, hardworking man who had a paramount interest in the liberation of his country, without having specific designs on holding high office in his country after its eventual liberation. He does not want to live out his life in either Canada or the U.S.; he wants to return to Bulgaria, where he ardently hopes to lead a cadre of his picked men in the fight for liberation, at a time when such a venture will have some reasonable chance of success. He is not under any illusions that this is the time. He is certain that no country in the world will be of any real and altruistic assistance to his country but the United States. He therefore would welcome entering into a contractual agreement with this government to offer him financial and other assistance in return for which he offers us the full use of whatever assets he has or can acquire.

2. This sounds, of course, like the usual line of tripe that we have heard before from numerous so-called "emigre leaders", such as G.M. DIMITROV and General Damian VELCHEV. I am quite sure as a result of my meetings with the man, taken together with the recorded facts of his life and his organization, the Bulgarian National Front, that he is about as honest a Bulgarian as we can hope to find, and that, if handled properly, under strict contract, and by a competent case officer, he can be very useful to us in the three fields: PP, RM, AND FL. I shall develop these briefly below.

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22 JUL 54

S E C R E T

-2-

3. PP POTENTIAL.

DOCHEV has run a newspaper in Toronto, Canada off and on since September 1951. This is the only Bulgarian language anti-Communist newspaper presently published in either the U.S. or Canada. It has not been published for several months due to the fact that DOCHEV does not have the funds to keep it going regularly. I am convinced that he is not getting any outside assistance, such as Canadian or British, and that in all probability, he is doing what he told me, i.e. publishing it only when he can spare a little money from his own modest income which he ~~receives~~ earns as a truck owner and driver for certain construction companies in and around Toronto.

It seems to me that there is a definite need for such a paper. There are two Bulgarian Communist papers; Narodna Volya, published in Detroit, and Novo Vreme, published in Toronto. There are ~~strong~~ Communist organizations in both Canada and the U.S. I believe that it is necessary and advisable to see to it that the other side of the question gets a chance to circulate among the Bulgarian-speaking and reading population of North America, and, if possible, elsewhere throughout the free world.

DOCHEV feels that it is important that his paper come out regularly, but not necessarily every week. Once a month would be adequate, but ~~that~~ ~~it would~~ if it is not regular, it gives substance to the line of Novo Vreme and Narodna Volya that theirs is the real truth about Bulgaria and Bulgarians. This is the present situation. It is, of course, ~~well~~-known that both these Commie papers are published regularly and carry the Commie line.

S E C R E T

-3-

3. (cont'd)

My proposal, then, is as follows:

That, after obtaining proper authorization, and entering into a firm financial agreement with DOCHEV, that we give him sufficient money to publish his paper on a monthly basis. According to his figures, this will amount to \$500.00 per month; twice monthly: \$700.00; ^{(2 issues} weekly: \$1000.00. ^{per month (4 issues)}

~~It is not clear, but implied in my discussion with DOCHEV~~

It is not clear, but implied in my discussion with DOCHEV that he expected to defray part of the costs as time went on from paid subscriptions. For comparative purposes, SE/PP tells me that the Albanian newspaper which has 4-6 pages, comes out ^{twice} ~~once~~ a month is budgeted for ~~\$15,000.00~~ \$15,000 per year, as against this figure of \$6000.00.

Twice monthly would amount to \$8400 per year, and weekly would be \$12000.00.